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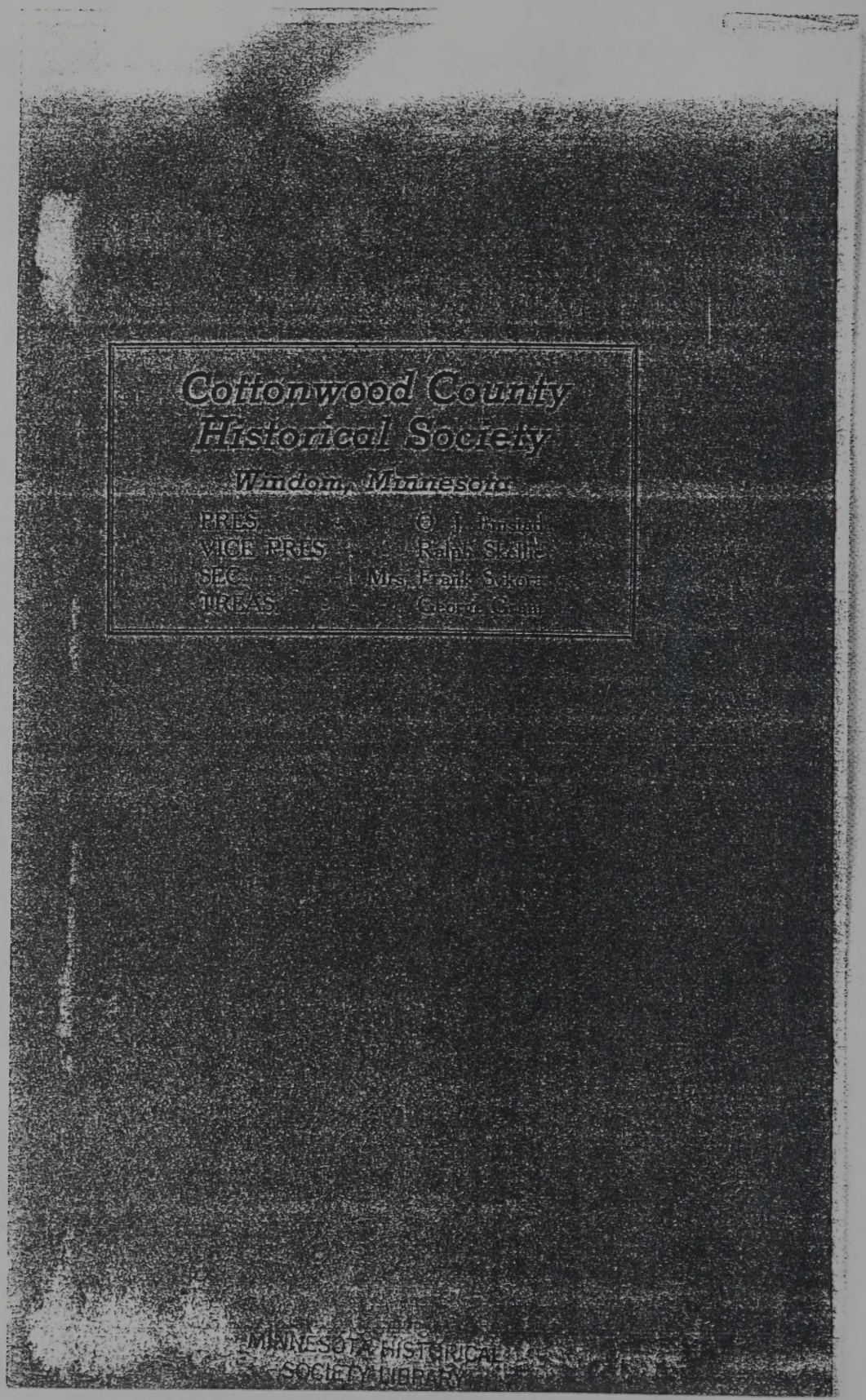

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL
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HISTORIC SITE

PAT'S GROVE

PAT CONLAN

1866

ERECTED IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
JUNE 26, 1949

Patrick Conlan, better known as Old Pat, came to America in 1856. He was then a young man of forty years, and unmarried. He brought with him a nephew, Larry O'Rourke. Arriving in New York, he at once set out for the western frontier.

Pat chose the picturesque spot where the outlet of Heron Lake empties into the Des Moines River. Here he filed a homestead. Then he returned to Estherville, loaded his few belongings, sold his eighty acres for $20.00 per acre and came to his new location bringing a small herd of cattle with him. He arrived in time to cut hay to winter his cattle and his span of mules.

He dug a cave in the north bank of the outlet for a dwelling place. This cave was about twelve by fourteen feet, walled in three sides with stone. The front was boarded up with slabs hewed from trees in the grove, which covered over half of the eighty acres. The roof was covered with poles; over them a layer of long slough grass and over that a layer of sod broken from the virgin prairie.

In this dugout he spent the remainder of his life. He continued cattle raising here until the country became too thickly settled. In the spring of 1881 when the bridge over the river at Windom went out he drove seventy-five head of long horned steers to Windom and ferried them across the river. Dan Davis paid him seventy-five dollars each for them. He took the money in gold and carried it home in a Buckskin sack as he always did when he could get the gold.

He was married in the spring of 1881 to a German girl, Celia Schuster by name. One son was born to them. Pat Conlan died in the spring of 1900. He was always looked upon as a miser by those who knew him. He never spent any of his gold, and no one ever saw any of it after he put it in the buckskin wallet. He never used a razor on his face. Though he never wore a long beard, but kept it cut short with shears. His clothing consisted of a red wool shirt and overalls held up with a belt. He never wore suspenders and dressed the same winter and summer.

We are indeed fortunate to have two pioneer settlers with us today. Mrs. Ella Peterson Hunter who came to Springfield Township when two and one-half years old in the spring of 1870, and has lived here ever since and she is erecting this historic sign in honor of her husband, the late W. W. Hunter, whom we all remember.

Our other old settler whom we honor and have with us is W. K. Mooers, known better as Scott Mooers, and came here to the County May 21, 1869. He was married and settled in Springfield in 1888. His good wife, Carrie Harper Mooers came in the fall of 1885 and is here today with us.

Thanks goes to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, who now own this place and to Mr. Frank Pratt who wrote the history of Pat Conlan for us.

HISTORIC SITE

HUGH PAUL'S FARM

NAMED WAVERTREE

1881

SOUTHBROOK TOWNSHIP

The winter of 1880-1881, was a big snow winter in Cottonwood County. A big flood came in the spring. Crops were planted late. The harvest was poor. Farms were for sale, if they could find a buyer.

At this time a millionaire Englishman, Edward Paul, came to Southbrook and purchased eleven sections of land which has since been known as the WAVERTREE farm, but was also known as the Paul farm. He built a very large house and many barns. He stocked the barn with black Galloway cattle imported from England. A year later he purchased a herd of Herefords but he mainly relied on the Galaways. Heavy Clydesdale horses were imported from England.

He also had a string of race horses and saddle horses used in fox hunts. Fox hunts were evidently like those they have in England, and Mrs. Paul led the chase with the best of them.

The Pauls were very aristocratic people and did not mingle with the neighbors, but they entertained their English company lavishly. They employed a number of men and maids and treated their help well.

If any hunters tried to dig out foxes on their farm, the Pauls were ready for battle and the intuders were driven off. They had a governess from England for a while to teach their children. The children later attended the school in District No. 20.

Mr. Paul became ill in 1894 and sold out in the next year. They moved back to England. The Pauls had owned this land in Southbrook for thirteen years.

HISTORIC SITE

FLOATING BRIDGE

1878

SOUTHBROOK TOWNSHIP

As you all know, Cottonwood County was organized in 1858 and the township's later record tells us the first white man to settle in the township was a Mr. Talke, a trapper. He and his daughter built a log cabin on the shore of what now is Talcott Lake, and a Mr. Door was living in Section 21 before 1867.

John Crapsy and wife and two sons came in 1867 and took a claim on Talcott Lake living in a trapper's shack for two years before building them a log cabin.

Lyman Oaks and family came about the same time in 1867 and lived in a trapper's cabin on what is now known as Oaks Lake. This was before the township was organized.

Southbrook was named from a little brook running out of Lake Talcott and it was the southwest township in Cottonwood County and was organized in July, 1871. There were 23 families in the township and they were all homesteaders living on their claims.

The first homestead filing in Southbrook was William McPheeters on the Northwest quarter of Section Thirty and according to the New Ulm land office records, the patent was signed by Pres. U. S. Grant, October 5, 1875. The pioneer found a real need for crossing the Des Moines River other than fording. The people living in Heron Lake, Dundee and Kimbrae in 1878 donated money to build a floating bridge across the river, and the farmer built the bridge and as far as we are able to find was the only one of its kind in the county.

HISTORIC SITE

JOHN BLUNT CHAPEL

Homestead — Log Cabin 1870

Rosehill Township ¾ Mile East

We have met here today to erect this marker in honor of the John Blunt Chapel and to pay tribute to the first white child born in Rosehill Township of which we have any records. Mr. Fred W. Lidtke was born on January 14, 1879, and now Mr. Lidtke will help drive the post for the marker.

The John Blunt Chapel Homestead was taken in 1870 and lies ¾ mile east of here. The Chapel family was one of a number of English families who came from England. Mr. Chapel was a big, husky man and like most Englishmen he loved sports, such as hunting, fishing, etc.

They named the lake lying to the north of us, Chapel Lake, in his honor, and history tells us the Indians had dug-outs along the creek not far from the Chapel Homestead. house.

Written by Jacob K. Rupp
June 26, 1949
Westbrook, Minnesota

HISTORIC SITE

KEMI POST OFFICE

John J. Hubin — 1st Postmaster 1890

Rosehill Township

The Kemi Post Office was established on October 15, 1890 with John J. Hubin as the postmaster and it served the settlers for miles around. The name "Kemi" was given the post office by the U. S. Post Office Department, not after big cities or a man, but because it was short and different.

Mail was delivered twice a week by a carrier; part of the time from Dundee and part of the time from Avoca.

At first Mr. Hubin had a few pigeon holes in his living room, but it disturbed the family so he built a lean-to on his house so the public could come in from the outside into a little lobby. The later years they even sold money orders in small denominations. This office was closed at the turn of the century when Westbrook was built.

Written by Jacob K. Rupp
June 26, 1949
Westbrook, Minnesota

HISTORIC SITE

EVANGELICAL EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1st pastor Rev. Rubel
Organized Sept. 24, 1884 Rosehill Township

This marker is being placed on the exact site of the Evangelical Emanuel Lutheran Church. It was organized on September 24, 1884 with Rev. Rubel as the first pastor and he served the people well during the early days.

HISTORIC SITE

WHEELOCK W. HUBBEL

Blacksmith Shop 1879-1891 Store 1891-1899
¼ mi. W. Rosehill Twp.

The marker we have just erected is in honor of Wheelock W. Hubbell, who was once owner and manager of the first blacksmith shop in Rosehill township, Sec. 4.

This place was established in 1879 and closed doors in 1901. Mr. Hubbell did blacksmith work for settlers for miles around. Incidently, his price for lay sharpening was 25¢. Mr. Hubbell was noted for his inventive ability and he accomplished many outstanding things. He left Minnesota on October 23, 1901, and settled in N. Dak.

There was also a country store near this same site, owned and managed by A. C. Aunis. In 1891, Mr. Aunis sold the store to Ernest and Alfred Arfsten (brother) who later sold it to Lock A. Hubbell. There was also another building standing near this same place which was used as a rooming house and butcher shop, but this was for only a short duration.

There is still standing about one half mile from the store building a small frame house where the mother and two sons, Ben and Wheelock made their home. Their father was dead.

This is a rcord we will honor and cherish for a long time to come.

HISTORIC SITE

TOWN OF AMO

1871

HISTORY OF EARLY AMO TOWNSHIP

The first town meeting of Georgetown, the name by which Amo was first called, met at the residence of George A. Chapman on the 18th of July A. D. 1871.

The following officers were elected:

Supervisors: W. H. Benbow, Charles Lewis, S. Bigelow and H. S. Ellis.
Town Clerk: G. A. Chapman
Town Treasurer: Charles E. Bigelow
Town Assessor: James E. Reynolds
Justice of the Peace: K. K. Peck
Constables: A. K. Peck and S. S. Bigelow

At a meeting held on March 12, 1872, a resolution was made and adopted to have a committee decide on a name for the town. The committee appointed was: George A. Chapman, A. W. French, and W. H. Benbow. The committee chose "Amo", which was suggested by W. H. Benbow to inculcate the principle of friendship, the meaning of the name, in Latin, being "I love." Amo was the name of a place in Indiana, the state in which Mr. Benbow had lived before coming to Minnesota. Mr. Benbow was a college graduate.

Amo was formed as a civil township of Cottonwood County in February 1873. The first election was held March 4, 1873.

The only lake, Lake Augusta, was originally named in honor of the wife of a pioneer homesteader, living on land adjoining the lake.

Alonzo H. Peck claimed as his homestead the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 24 and the west half of the southwest quarter of the same section. The patent was signed by President U. S. Grant, September 5, 1874. The Civil War Veterans were allowed 160 acres. When the homesteaders had lived on their land five years, they were allowed to take a tree claim, where they were to plant 10 acres of trees. Six tree claims were taken in Amo township. Many of the trees are still alive and growing.

The two sections of Amo that were state school lands were: the section north of the Amo Methodist Church, and the section in the southeast corner. A railroad company was given certain sections in a radius of twelve miles from the railroad. The land on which the Methodist Church stands was given by the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company.

The Breck College at Wilder was built by a contractor, who was an Amo Homesteader. His name was Wm. H. Bigelow. His sons worked his land, when he was away doing carpenter work.

McCauleys found old kettles and dishes on their land. They found an oblong metal pan, shiny on the bottom and corroded on the inside. Was "gold mining" an industry of early Amo?

AMO METHODIST CHURCH

The Amo M. E. Church was organized under the leadership of Rev. B. Y. Coffin, and on October 1, 1886 the board of trustees met at the Benbow schoolhouse. They decided to build a church.

Work on the foundation was started Nov. 3, 1886. F. D. Silliman was secured as a carpenter. The Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad donated three acres of land upon which the church and cemetery are located.

On May 26, 1887, Rev. S. G. Smith came from Minneapolis to dedicate the church.

AMO LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Amo Lutheran Church was organized in April, 1887, by the Rev. J. C. Jacobson. The first services were held in school houses. The first church was built in 1892. Eight years later it became necessary to remodel and enlarge this structure. A new and larger church was built in 1915.

It can be said that the little Town of Amo began with the starting of the creamery. The Amo Co-op Farmer's Creamery was organized in the Spring of 1895 by Frank Wilson. It was built on land donated by Vet Collins, on a hill in the northwest corner of the section. Eric Sevatson, of the People's Bank of Windom, financed the loan. R. Priest supplied the lumber and put up the building. The creamery was operated by the farmers for several years. Then it was sold to Walter Port and Jay Hake's, who later moved the building to Storden. After running the creamery there for some time, they sold it to a Mr. Smestad, a son of the Storden blacksmith. While Mr. Sundegar was running the creamery one afternoon, it caught afire from the smoke stack and was destroyed John F. Johnson's granary now sets on the foundation of the former creamery.

Mr. John F. Johnson ran a Blacksmith Shop. It was located east of the store.

The Amo Store was started in 1896. Many groceries, and needful goods, such as cloth were sold in the store. The stock was shipped out from the cities, and hauled out from Windom.

There was a Telephone Exchange Service in the store for the Windom and Storden lines. A switch was on the wall, for connecting parties. The first telephones through this territory were at M. N. Cadwell's and at John F. Johnson's.

AMO POST OFFICE

After the store started in 1896, the people asked if they could have a post office here. A U. S. Post Office was established and it ran from 1896 to 1908.

A regular carrier brought mail from Windom; he came three times a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. He usually had three or four sacks full of mail. There were no mailboxes in the township at that time. There were P. O. boxes in the store, to be rented at fifteen cents per month. Mrs. Johnson did most of the work in the postoffice. She sold stamps, made out money orders, and stamped mail. The mail carrier went from Windom to Amo, Storden, Hoyt and Lamberton. Whoever wanted to get their mail at this P.

O., could. Some of the early Mail Carriers were, according to some of the old records: J. A. Banks, May, 1902; John Whestad, July, 1906; Chas. Reipke, Feb. 1903; Mrs. Chas. Reipke, 1903. This was Mail Carrier Route No. 41, 761.

The mode of carrying for summer was usually two horses and a carrier, for winter, sometimes, two horses and a cutter. There was a ruling that the carrier had to get here at 9:30 and leave by 10:00.

Some of the Box Renters for 1903 were: H. E. Patridge, John Rydeen, Harry Opperle, Helmer Malous, Ole T. Bondus, Chas. Sykora, Torval Pederson, A. G. Piper, C. N. Nelson, Chas. O. Brothan, Albert Roe, Mrs. P. C. Johnson, W. E. Kingery, John Mortenson, Amo Creamery Co., Frank Sykora, Sr., Carl F. Pederson, O. N. Boxrud, Nick Lenhoff, Sr.

AMO TOWN HALL

The building, which is now the AMO TOWN HALL, was built in 1918, and built to be used as a machine shed. In 1921, a floor was added, and it was used after that as a town hall. A stage was built on the south end. In 1933, a little kitchen was added on the north end.

Mr. Edward McCauley is the oldest living man in Amo Township. He was born in Ireland, January 19, 1862. (He was 87 years old on Jan. 19, 1949.) He came to Amo Township in 1884, and worked as a farm hand for W. H. Benbow.

The oldest married couple living in Amo Township are Mr. and Mrs. John F. Johnson. They were married May 17, 1892, at Sioux Falls, South Dakcta, and went to Mitchell, South Dakota, to live. Mr. John F. Johnson and Hans Hansons from Windom, were the contractors that built the first corn palace in 1893. They moved back to Amo in 1896, and started the Amo store. Mr. John F. Johnson was born in Denmark, June 25, 1866. He came with his parents to Minneapolis, and then in 1379 to Amo Township to his father,s homestead, located one mile south of his present residence, on the west side of the road. Mr. John F. Johnson's father, Mr. P. C. Johnson, was one of the organizers of the Amo Lutheran Church.

HISTORIC SITE

JOE BEAN

1st Homestead in Cottonwood County 1866
Westbrook Twp.

Joseph F. Bean was born in Massachussets in 1836. He came with his parents to Dakota County, Minnesota in 1855. He married Ragnhild Olson who had immigrated from Hallingdal, Norway; she was tall, strong and industrious. They located in Eureka, Twp., Dakota County, Minnesota.

At the outbreak of Sioux Inhians, J. F. Bean organized the Eureka Company which consisted of 22 men. It drilled from August 26 until September 26, 1862. On January 1, 1864 he enlisted in Co. F Second Minnesota Vol. Calvary and served against the Sioux Indians until honorably discharged on December 21, 1865. This company was active in scouting in southwestern and northwestern Minnesota. In 1864 a squad of soldiers from Company F Vol. Cavalry scouted towards Lake Shetek. The squad bivouacked one night north of the lake which now bears the name Bean Lake. On June 11, 1866 J. F. Bean made entry at a land office for 171.5 acres on Sec. 14, which is now Westbrook township. He was the first homesteader in Cottonwood County.

The Bean family located on land a few miles east of Lamberton. To this day "The Bean Timber" is a name on the thicket of wood north of the junction of the Dutch Charley and Highwater Creeks in Redwood County. The family moved to Westbrook township in 1869. Mr. Bean purchased much land in Redwood and Cottonwood Counties. The Federal census of 1870 states that J. F. Bean's real estate was worth $6,000 and his personal priperty $500. Contemporary farmers recollect that J. F. Bean was a horseman and owner of many horses. He was a skillful rider on his pony, a less successful farmer, and a graduate of Harvard University of Law and Civil Eng. The Bean family except Walter moved out of Westbrook township and located near Helena, Montana prior to 1885. Mr. Bean died in Great Falls, Montana in 1911. Mrs. Bean died in 1901 at the age of 59.

The Bean family deserve remembering for inviting settlers into the north part of Cottonwood County after 1866. Westbrook township was organized on September 17, 1870 which consisted of Westbrook, Highwater, Storden and Ann Townships. The first officers were Supervisors: Hogan Anderson. John Hanson and Carolius Pederson; Clerk: C. L. Fering, Treasurer: Morton Engebretson, Assessor: John A. Monson; Justice of Peace: John Roth and Enock Baker, Constable: John P. Schorin and Ole Erickson, Overseer of Highways: Hans Iverson. The sum of $80 was raised for current and incidental expenses.

J. F. Bean was the second clerk and held this and other offices for many years. His name is prominent throughout the proceeding for years and then the name of Walter Bean appears. Other well known names in early years were K. N. Langeland, Peter Nelson, A. T. Larson, Ole Jensen and Fred Sorenson.

HISTORIC SITE

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION MEETING

March 30, 1875, Martin Holland home
STORDEN TOWNSHIP

HISTORY OF STORDEN TOWNSHIP

In 1869 there were 4 townships in the territory then covered by Westbrook, namely Westbrook, Highwater, Ann and Storden. About 1870 they split in half. The West half adopted the name Highwater, after the creek that flows through the territory. Later, about 1872, this community split again and the North half took the name Highwater with them. The South half needed a name. Being largely Norwegian population, they adopted "Town of Norsk" as their name.

In 1875 the train through Lamberton put on mail clerks. They complained about the length of the name "Town of Norsk" on the letters. They threatened to discontinue the Post Office there unless they changed the name. A meeting was then called on March 30, 1875 at the Martin Holland farm to re-organize the township and get a new name for it and the post office. Colburn Swenson was chairman of this meeting. There were 23 votes cast. It was voted to raise $25.00 for a township fund and $6.00 for road and bridge work. The name Storden was suggested and adopted by the township.

To go back to the beginning of the township history. In 1870 the nearest doctor was 95 miles away. Halvor Lohre was the first settler in Storden township in 1870. It is thought that Colburn Swenson came about the same time. Other early settlers to come in about this time were Hans Anderson, Rasmus Anderson, Ole Chrestoferson, Ole Sahl and Ole Hedman.

The early settlers traded at New Ulm. The trip by oxen took 3 days up and 3 days back. At night the wagon was turned over and used to sleep under. Logs for the building of sod shanties and roofs on dugouts, were hauled from the timber along the creeks, by oxen. Ole Hedman had no oxen so he carried his logs on his back, a distance of about 2 miles.

The first crop in Storden township was planted in the spring of 1871 by Hans Anderson. He planted 3 acres of wheat and harvested 42 bushels. The first frame building was put up by Christ Mikelson in 1871. It was 12 by 14 feet and had 2 half windows.

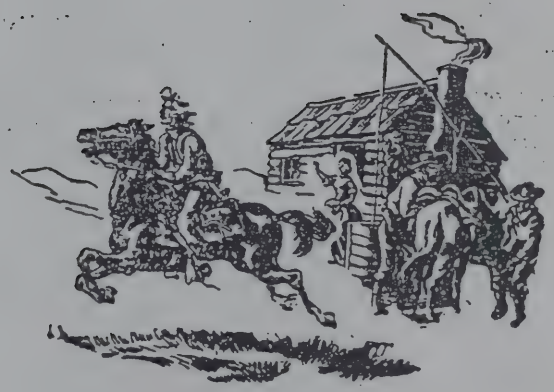
In 1871 Martin Holland and Sven Monson took claims in Storden township. They each had a span of mules, also a number of tools brought from Norway. They invented a 2 man saw mill of their own. It was built on a side hill, over a dugout, one man standing below, pulling down and one man on top, pulling up on the saw. They sawed many pieces of lumber for themselves and their neighbors. Martin Holland made wooden shoes, spoons, spades and shovels for himself and his neighbors.

Mail was brought from New Ulm about twice a year. In the spring of 1873 an overland mail route was established from Windom

to Lamberton, making the trip once a week. It was at this time the "Town of Norsk" post office was established at the Ole Chrestoferson farm in section 18, Mr. Chrestoferson was made postmaster.

Rev. J. C. Jacobson walked through the county and baptized many babies born here. In 1871 he organized what is now known as the Old Westbrook church. A log church served this first congregation.

Written by Mrs. Otto Roefer
June 26, 1949.



HISTORICAL SITE

OLD WESTBROOK NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

First church in Cottonwood County
Organized in Log House in 1870 Ann Twp.
Present Location ½ mile South

The Old Westbrook Lutheran Church was organized May 12, 1870 in the house of Morten Engebritson, approximately forty rods south of this site. This was the first church organized in Cottonwood County. The present church building is about one half mile south.

Today as we stand on the banks of Dutch Charley Creek, we commemorate the strong, brave men and women who transformed these vast prairies into the fruitful farm land of Ann Township.

Think of the brave heroism of those mothers who gave birth to children under such primitive circumstances. Think of the brave heroism of those fathers who successfully established their homes here. Think of those brave children who once played in these hills almost one hundred years ago. Think of the staunch faith of Pastor Jacobson who walked from St. Paul in 1870, to organize the first Lutheran Church in this part of the state on the bank of Dutch Charley Creek.

We should often remember our forefathers who so faithfully labored here under very adverse circumstances, that we might have this free and fruitful land. To these brave men and women we pay our respect today.

July 10, 1949

HISTORIC SITE

DUTCH CHARLIE

CARL ZIERKE, 1ST SETTLER, 1858

ANN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Carl Zierke (Dutch Charlie), born in Germany in 1828, came into Cottonwood County in 1858; and settled as a trapper, traded and farmer, arriving before the County was surveyed. His log cabin was erected on the east banks of Dutch Charlie's Creek, being the first house built in the County.

Mary, the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Zierke was the first child born in Cottonwood County in the year 1858.

The Zierkes fled from the Indians in the year 1862 and later died in the year 1864, being buried in the New Ulm Cemetery in the Pioneer Section.

Mr. Zierke is known as Dutch Charlie. During his stay in his cabin, a military trail or road was laid out in 1861 from New Ulm to Sioux Falls, entering Highwater Township in Section Thirteen and Westward and South to Section 22, 23, 29 and 30. The above trail passed on the South side of Mr. Zierke's cabin.

After the Civil War, immigrants moved Westward to settle along creeks and on the open prairie. The first ones to arrive in Ann Township were Hogan Anderson and Hans Nelson in February of the year 1867.

In the spring of 1867, Mr. Anderson brought his family and settled along Dutch Charley Creek. Mrs. Anderson's name was Anne, for whom the township was named.

During these years school was conducted in the homes, until district four was organized in the year 1872.

HISTORIC SITE

CAROLIUS PEDERSON

First Permanent Settler 1867 600' South
First Meeting House 1871 200' North

Some of the earliest land entries in the county were effected within Highwater Township. Most of the persons who thus homesteaded or pre-empted land in this township in the seventies and eighties became permanent settlers. Much of the land originally entered is still held by members of the families.

The first permanent settlement of Highwater Township was homesteaded by Carolius Pederson and his family in section 30, in 1867. Carolius was born in Nesne, Helgeland , Norway on May 26, 1827, In 1866, the family of five persons emigrated with the bark, "Norge" to Quebec, Canada. From thence they proceeded to Wisconsin. Having the urge to go west to the prairies, they moved to Dakota County, Minnesota early in 1867. Later that year, they drove in an ox wagon to Redwood County, Minnesota. As Carolius was out to seek land for homesteading, he left his family in Redwood County and set out to make his selection. In the fall of 1867 he selected a claim which later became the Nels Engebretson farm, because Carolius squatted on eighty acres in section 30 of Highwater township. He and his son, Hans, stayed at night in the trappers dugout which George Walker had used in 1866 while caring for stock of Joseph Bean. Walker did not stay permanently nor had he made any claim until Jan. 1871, when a survey proved it was on the land of Carolius Pederson. Carolius and his son cut logs by hand, completing the log house by spring, when the family moved into their first permanent home in this country. This house was the first in Highwater township after the Civil War and was part of the living house all these years until it was torn down about eight years ago, having stood for over 70 years.

In the summer of 1868, Hogan Anderson and family came and stayed with them until they had a cellar dug on their place in the northwest quarter of Section 19, and later built a log house.

For a number of years the Pederson home was used as a central place to buy groceries and distribute mail to the neighboring pioneers. The groceries were sold by a Mr. Carrow and later by F. Riis. Carolius Pederson raised a family of five children, Hans, Ellen Pederson Fering, Susie Pederson Wollam, Anna Pederson Uvaas, and Anton. One daughter, Mrs. Susie Wollam of Windom is still living. Carolius was a man of much ability and always interested in the welfare of the community. He is one of the signers on the first Constitution for Westbrook Lutheran Congregation. He also held the offices of secretary, treasurer, and trustee. He was a member of the church building committee of the congregation in the year 1883-84.

Although the struggle to establish a home here in the new settlement took up most of his time, he did not forget his religious vows and early traning received in his native country. His Lord was

guide and strength and surely no one could enjoy living in a community where there was no time and place to worship his Lord. A schoolhouse, Dist. No. 4, built a quarter of a mile north from his place in the year 1871, was used to hold religious services. Although there was no Lutheran pastor called to serve them, the services were conducted by neighboring town pastors or some capable layman in the community. This meeting house was used by the new settlers from both sides of Dutch Charley Creek and distances of many miles never stopped them when it came to worshipping the Lord. The young folks, who were preparing for confirmation, were instructed by Lars Swenson, a prominent citizen in civic and religious affairs, and when ready for confrimation, a pastor was called in to confirm the members. Some of the first confirmands were: Martin Foss, Andrew Hedman, Mrs. Susie Wollam, Ole Rongstad, Mrs. Nels Knutson, John Engebretson, John Holman, Knut Knutson Hagen, Ole Torgerson, Mrs. Sefanias Pederson, Ole Akerlund, the Hogan Anderson twins, and a Hendrickson girl.

In the year 1878, the school Dist. No. 4 sold the building to the congregation for $250. It was enlarged and given a churchly appearance It was given the name of "The Meeting House." They continued to use this building for worshipping God until in 1883 when they sold the building to E. E. Heggerston and built a church at a cost of $2,000 in Ann township. This old meeting house is still a part of the Heggerston living house which is being used on the old hometeadstead six miles southeast of Walnut Grove in Ann township.

HISTORIC SITE

MILITARY TRAIL LAID OUT 1861

NEW ULM TO SIOUX FALLS, S. D.
HIGHWATER TOWNSHIP

In 1868, only one road, the Military Trail, crossed the northeast part of Cottonwood County. This trail was wider than the common wagon tracks. Marks of this rtail are still visible in the hillside on the east side of Highwater creek, near the buildngs on the Meyer Batalden farm.

The builders of this road are mentioned in a history as follows: In 1861 a road was laid out between New Ulm and Sioux Falls by three men; a cross-eyed man from Dubuque, Iowa, a lawyer, and Hedl Parmelee. Parmelee had located near Lake Shetek in 1855, but moved away prior to the Indian massacre.

The trail lay on the southern extremity of Lake Shetek and Dutch Charley creek, and was much used for trips to New Ulm, the nearest market.

From the west, this military trail crossed the townships of Ann, Highwater and Germantown in Cottonwood County and five townships in Brown county to New Ulm. If we trace the road westward through Highwater township, it passes on the north of the Ole Urness farm, on the south side of the Herman Halter farm house, crosses Highwater creek north of the Meyer Batalden buildings, crosses the John Roth farm, the Aslog Torgerson farm, the H. Bank hill, descends a trifle south of the Sever Swenson buildings, ascends the hill near the Iverson schoolhouse, the south part of the George Walker homestead, past the Dutch Charley cabin on the south, down the hill to Dutch Charley creek, thence westward to Lake Shetek. From there the trail winds southwest toward Sioux Falls.

The pioneer farmers in this community usually made two annual trips to New Ulm. A trip required from four to six days when a load of wheat was brought to the mill. Several farmers drove in company on such trips. They could not drive in a straight line, because the wagon tracks lay on high ground, circling sloughs, following ravines and creeks, some of which had to be crossed. Although the trail crossed creeks where the banks slanted and the water lacked depth, the crossings were difficult and dangerous after heavy rains.

An incident in crossing the Highwater creek after a rainstorm illustrates the danger to man and team. Farmers Gunder Johnson, Ole Stendal and George B. Walker drove their ox teams homeward from New Ulm. As they came to the crossing, they noted the swollen waters and rapid current. Nevertheless they decided to ford the stream. The current lifted the wagon box and it floated with Gorge Walker in it. Gunder Johnson shouted "Jump." Mr. Walker jumped, but he couldn't swim and might have drowned if his two companions had not come to his assistance. The oxen were encumbered by the wagons and one of Ole Stendal's oxen drowned in the creek.

This experience was typical of many similar happennigs at the crossing of the waters.

HISTORIC SITE

RED ROCK POST OFFICE

ESTABLISHED MAY 9, 1878

WILBUR POTTER, 1ST. P. M.

Amboy township was organized October 10, 1872. It was named Amboy by Moses DeWolf, one of the earliest settlers, for his home town in New York. C. M. Bywater was clerk of the election that day and S. B. Stedman and George Robison were County Commissioners at that time. The town officers elected that day were:

Town Clerk—C. M. Bywater

Supervisors—Orland Matteson, Milo DeWolf and Stephen Rowe

Treasurer—Moses DeWolf

Constable—Harley DeWolf

Eight votes were cast. The first assessor was J. H. Nelson. He was paid $8.00 for four days assessing.

In July, 1873, a stone culvert was built across the Little Cottonwood on the west line of the northwest quarter of Section 24 on the old County Road, now U. S. Highway No. 71. This culvert was the first bridge built in Amboy Township and it cost $231.25, $100 of which was paid by the county. In 1878 the assessed valuation of the land here was $3.50 per acre.

The first child born in Amboy Township was Blanche DeWolf, now Mrs. John Rupp of Windom. And the firt couple married here

was Rose Story and Walter Clarke. D. M. Fairbairn, who was Justice of the Peace at that time performed the ceremony.

The Post Office was established in 1878 on the Wilbur Potter farm, the place now owned by Marle Storey. It was named the Red Rock Post Office and the first postmaster was Wilbur Potter. The mail was brought by stage from Windom twice a week. The second postmaster was W. S. Story, the third. Arthur Rice, the fourth was C. F. Potter and the last D. M. Fairbairn. It was discontinued when a post office was established in Jeffers in 1900.

The first school in the township was held in a small house on Section 22. A few years later another school was held in a little shack halfway between the places now owned by D. A. Fairbairn and Ed Potter. The first Sunday School was organized by Mrs. D. M. Fairbairn and the first church was started by the Rev. Edward Savage of Windom. Mr. Savage held regular services every summer for a number of years in the school house in District No. 40. His salary consisted mostly in thanks. One summer he received the magnificent sum of $10.

The winter of 1880-81 is recorded as one of the worst the state of Minnesota ever endured. That was the year of the famous October blizard which began the night of October 15 and lasted from three to four days. Many cattle perished in that storm and the snow lay deep on the prairies until the middle of the following April.

The winter of 1888 was another that people had cause to remember. In January, W. A. Potter lost 27 head of cattle in a blizzard that struck suddenly late in the afternoon while his son, Charlie and the hired man were driving the stock back from a spring two miles from home where they had taken them for water. The boys had a hard struggle to save themselves, but the stock was lost.

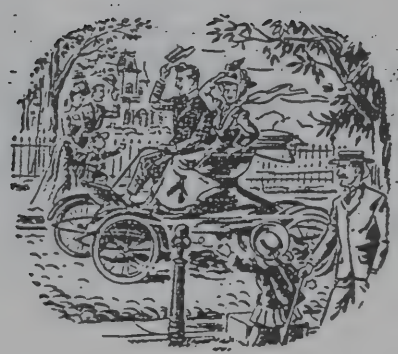
In the late 80's conditions began to improve. The price of land raised to $8 per acre, horses took the place of oxen, more homes were built and new settlers came in numbers. Covered buggies took the place of lumber wagons and the old-fashioned road cart and young men bought high stepping horses and new buggies to take their sweethearts riding. And girls appeared with bustles and bangs.

Cornelius Wolf was the first man to purchase an automobile. He got it from Sears, Roebuck and Co.; it was painted bright red

and had solid rubber tires. You could hear it coming long before it hove in sight.

Thanks to the early settlers who braved blizzards, prarie fires, drought, grasshoppers and a succession of wet seasons, who ground wheat in their coffee mills for bread and burned twisted hay in their stoves to keep from freezing, Amboy Township is now a place of prosperous farms, good roads, good schools and fine homes.

Written by Helen Fairbairn.
July 10, 1949.



HISTORIC SITE

STAGE COACH TRAIL CROSSED HERE

HIEROGLYPHICS ON RED ROCK
DELTON TOWNSHIP

How much closer our forefathers came to mother nature and the things God created, is brought forceably home as we view this stage coach trail and realize that this trail was their guiding line across the open praries.

* * * * * *

Hieroglyphics or Indian markings on S½ of NE¼, Sec. 8 in Delton Township cause you to pause in wonderment at their sign language for some of the drawings are almost a work of art being cut about ⅛ inch deep in the hard glazed red rocks; there being between 200 to 500 on the rock ridge which passed through Selma, Delton, Amboy and Storden townships.

HISTORIC SITE

Mennonite Brethren Church
1875

Carson Mennonite Brethren
Church - 1949

CARSON TOWNSHIP

This church was first organized by six families in the year 1875 under the leadership of Elder Heinrich Voth. The first church building was erected in 1885. The dimensions of this structure were 24 feet by 36 feet. The building site was the geographical center of of Carson township. After seven years of expansion the need for more room was seen and a new building, 30 feet by 62 feet was added to the east end, at the cost of $1603.00 The committee in charge of building at this time was John Wiens, Jacob C. Dick and John Neufeld. The carpenter was A. C. Dick. This building was dedicated to the Lord an He has proven Himself faithful. God has granted His protection and the 64 years that the building has served have been years of blessing. We praise Him.

HISTORIC SITE

MOUNTAIN LAKE
MOUNTAIN 1½ MI. S.

Early Camping and Hunting Ground
Lake drained 1906

The "Mountain" originally was an island: a high, flat hill near the center of a shallow lake which covered an area of about 900 acres. It was a lovely spot with tall trees growing on it, and an abundance of native shrubs added to its beauty. Wild grapes, choke cherries, gooseberries, and currants grew luxuriantly, and the settlers from far and near went there to pick these fruits which were made into jellies and jams. Much of this vegetation has been destroyed by the greed of thoughtless pickers who pulled down grapevines and chopped down trees to get at the fruit. The lake afforded good fishing, mostly bullheads and pickerel.

That this place was once a camping and hunting ground of the Indians is evidenced by the many Indian relics such as arrowheads, skinning knives, stone hammers, etc. which have been found, and are still to be found there. Petrified skulls of buffaloes also have been found. Some people believe that the "Mountain" is an Indian burial ground, but nothng has ever been discovered to substantiate this belief.

The earliest record found of any settler having lived on the "Mountain Island" as it was called at that time, was in 1865 when William Mason, a trapper from Faribault County, built a log cabin there and lived there for three years.

This "Mountain Island" seemed an ideal spot for a summer resort, and at one time in the early '90's an attempt was made to convert it into one. It was sub-dvided into lots, some of which were sold, but in 1906 the lake was drained and this project was abandoned.

The village of Mountain Lake which was platted in 1870 derived its name from this site.

Before the lake was drained, the only way to get to the "Mountain" was to drive over the Diedrich Warkentin farm, which adjoined the lake. This involved opening and closing numerous gates: closing the gates may often have been forgotten by the pleasure seekers in their hurry to get to their destination. After passing through the last gate, there was a short drive through a pasture, and then it was necessary to drive through a shallow part of the lake. The water was just deep enough to cover the floor of the surrey to a depth of several inches. If one wished to keep dry feet, it was necessary to raise

them up to the dashboard. The oldtimers who used to go there in the good old horse and buggy days will never forget the thrill of this experience.

After the lake was drained, a good road was built leading to the "Mountain". It is now a favorite place for picnics and wiener roasts. During the summer months hardly an evening passes by that the cheery fires of the merry-makers can not be seen from afar.

Mrs. W. J. Janssen

HISTORIC SITE

GREAT BEND SCHOOL

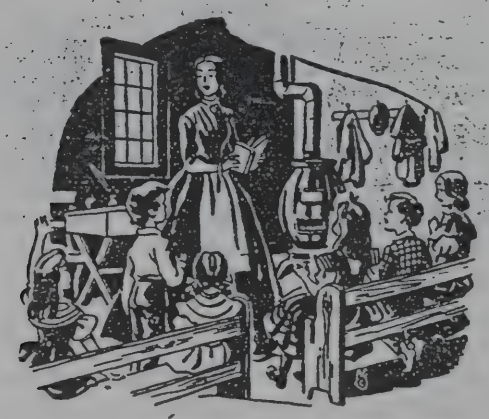
1871

First M. E. Church - Big Bend Townsite
Great Bend 120 Rods N. 30 Rods W. Twp.

The first settlers of Great Bend were people very concerned about the educational and religious training for their chilren. A school was established and the first term taught by Miss Nettie Sackett in a sod claim shack erected by Isaac Vansky. This was the first school in Cottonwood County. Taught in summer of 1871 during the winter of 1871-1872 school was held in the same sod shanty taught by Cyrus McFinch.

In summer of 1872, a new frame schoolhouse was built about ¾ mile south of the sod house. Mr. John E. Teed taught the first term in the new building during the winter of 1872 - 1873. During this winter Jan. 7-8-9, 12 or more children were marooned for two days and one night in one of the fiercest blizzards ever remembered io this community.

This schoolhouse was burned to the ground in January, 1916; thus we had to part with our much beloved school house; but it was rebuilt the following summer.



During the summer of 1871 preaching services were held in the old sod schoolhouse and a Sunday School was organized and held there also.

After the frame schoolhouse was built Divine Services and Sunday School were held in it and were continued until after 1900.

The first Methodist Church in the county was organized in this old schoolhouse. The Rev. J. W. Lewis was the first pastor. Rev. J. E. Fitch and Rev. H. H. Smith were among the early pastors. The membership and records started in the old schoolhouse were moved to Windom and there organized the Methodist Episcopal Church of Windom. In the year of 1870, a Methodist minister by the name of Rev. Peter Baker began holding meetings in the neighborhood.

The first sermon preached in the county was preached by Rev. Edward Savage, a young man just out of college. This service was held in the early summer of 1870 in the claim shack of D. Evans in Sec. 18 and was the forerunner of the Preps. Church of Windom which he organized and was pastor of.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners on August 15, 1870, the township of Great Bend was organized and the first election was held at the Chas. Chamberlin home August 29, 1870. S. Stedman, chairman; Paul Hamilton and David Moores, supervisors; D. Evans, Clerk, J. F. Smith, Treas.

J. F. Smith, grandfather of Mort Smith of Windom, operated the first store in the county in Section 6 and there was also a blacksmith shop near the store.

At the November 1872 election, by vote of the people and proclamation of the governor, the county seat was moved to Windom, and so the official, educational, religious and social activities center around this old school site and community which has been first county seat, first township organizaton, first school, first in M. E. Religion in the county and which we of the community feel merits this Historical Marker.

July, 10, 1949
Fred Earlewine

HISTORIC SITE

FIRST POST OFFICE

NOVEMBER 4, 1870

J. T. Smith, Postmaster - Dale Twp.
60 rods South - 65 rods West

Dale Township was organized in March, 1872. It was one of the central townships in Cottonwood County.

At the home of Geo. W. Purdy, March 30, 1872, the first town board election was held. The supervisors elected were Geo. W. Purdy, Charles White, and L. E. Mace. The clerk was John A. Harvey.

The first homestead was settled June 20, 1870 in the Southeast Quarter of Section 14, which is now owned by Harold Anderson.

Rudolph Wolf is the oldest living settler in Dale and he was born March 20, 1878 on the northwest corner of section 10. Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Klassen are the oldest married couple who were born and raised in Dale and are still living on their farm. DeWain Cook noted for his fruit raising lived on the Northwest corner of Section 4, and he became an honorary live member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society in 1910. In 1905 he received a medal for his plums at the St. Louis World's Fair.

Hosea Eastgate chose his home by the river where nature provided wood and water. He and his family raised wheat, which he delvered to the Drake Elevator in Windom, as payment for his land. In the home of Hosea Eastgate, according to government records, the first post office was registered; and where the first pioneer settlers got their mail. This post office was established on November 4, 1870 in the Hosea Eastgate house in Dale Township. In what was then known as Big Ben Township 106 North, Range 36 East on the North bank of the DesMoines River in the extreme southwest corner of the township.

According to the records from the national archives of Washington, D. C., J. T. Smith was first postmaster, November 4, 1870; Chas. H. Carroll, October 16, 1871; Jeremiah Allen, December 11, 1871.

It was discontinued October 12, 1874, re-established on May 6, 1875 with Hosea Eastgate as postmaster and discontinued on Nov. 30, 1903. On the farm of Mike Chukuske, Dale Township, is the part of the old Hosea Eastgate house which housed the post office and which has been moved and forms the south part of his holse.

Miss Lily Brown, now Mrs. Lily Mathiesen, taught school in District 54 in 1886-87 and boarded at the home of Hosea Eastgate.

Having a desire to talk to their neighbors as we do today, M. N. Cadwell and George Mathiesen helped organize the first farmers telephone line in the early 1900's.

The Three Lakes Farmers Club which is still in existance today was organized in January 1911. It is the oldest club of this kind in the State of Minnesota. The first officers were Geo. Mathisen, President; John Gustafson, Vice President; Emil Paulson, Secretary and Arthur Schaffer, Treasurer.

HISTORIC SITE

FIRST COURTHOUSE 1883 BUILT AT A COST OF $2,910.00

WINDOM, MINNESOTA
GREAT BEND TOWNSHIP

Cottonwood County was officially organized in 1870 by an act of the legislature. Governor Austin appointed the first Board of County Commissioners. Those appointed were:

Allen Gardiner, Joel Benjamin and Lewis L. Miner.

The first meeting of the board was held July 29, 1870 in a farm house at the Bend, about seven miles northwest from the present site of Windom. This was before Windom was built. The railroad survey was at this point, and this site known as Great Bend would be where the town was to be located.

A Mr. J. T. Smith built a little store here. The following year the railroad survey was changed and the site of Windom was located and the county seat was definitely located here.

The first county officers appointed by the Board on July 29, 1870, were

Chas. Chamberlain, County Auditor
H. M. McGaughey, County Treasurer
Ezra Winslow, Register of Deeds
E. B. Sheldon, Sheriff
John W. Schaffer, County Attorney
Tabor Imus, Judge of Probate
Orrin Nason, County Surveyor

On November 11th, 1870, the first general election ever held in the county took place. Only the four townships organized, namely: Lakeside, Great Bend, Springfield and Westbrook, participated and only county officers were chosen.

In reality the County seat was removed to Windom when the County Board met in Windom in January, 1872, but legally this change was not made until the Legislature had passed a bill allowing the voters of the County to vote on the removal of the County Seat (this bill was passed in March) and the voters had cast their ballots at the general election in November, 1872, and the County seat was removed to Windom from Great Bend.

On January 9th, 1873, the County Board was in session and accepted the donation from the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company for block 23 in the Village of Windom to be used to erect a Court House and County Buildings thereon, and that S. M. Espey be requested to notify the company to send on the deed for same.

The first mention made in the records of the County of providing a Court House was made at the March meeting in 1883 in a motion by M. T. DeWolf, H. M. Goss and Joel Clark who were appointed a committee to report at the next meeting with plans and specifications for a Court House, not to exceed in cost three thousand dollars.

On March 16th, 1883, on motion, it was resolved to build a Court House as soon as it could be practically done at a cost not in

excess of three thousand dollars. One other motion, the plans and specifications by J. Clark for the Court House which was to be 36 by 50, were adopted. The building was to be two stories high. John Clark was appointed the building committee.

The court house really cost $2,910.00 It had been opposed by the farmers who felt too poor to think of paying for a Court House. After a few years it became too small for the county work, so an addition was built on the South side. This soon became inadequate, and so on October 13th, 1903, the County Board of Commissioners decided, by resolution, to construct a new building on Block 13. The Citizens of Windom were anxious to have the new Court House erected down in the square, so on January 5th, 1904, the County authorities exchanged the old Court house square for the City park. The County reserved where the jail now stands.

The new Court House was built at a cost of $85,000.00 and the grading of the grounds at $5,200.00.

On November 3rd, 1905, the new Court House was dedicated. The entire structure cost with all of its furnishings, etc., one hundred thousand dollars. In 1907 the old Court House was sold to Carl Hanson, a Lakeside farmer, for $835.00. It was torn down and erected on the farm for a barn.

HISTORIC SITE

L. P. DOLLIFF LUMBER CO

FIRST BUSINESS PLACE IN JEFFERS

ESTABLISHED IN 1899

HISTORY OF JEFFERS

Jeffers is celebrating it's Golden anniversary this Territorial Centennial year of 1949. We would like to pay tribute to those who helped establish our town. We are placing the historical marker on the site of the first business place in Jeffers which is also very active at the present time.

The L. P. Doliff Co. was the first business established in Jeffers, in the early fall of 1899. The first manager was L. E. Streater, who conducted his business in a small shack which was built in a wheat field on the present location. He slept in the shack and boarded at the John Knowles farm near Jeffers. This shack was the first structure on the town site and was replaced in 1900 by the main shed now in use.

In the spring of 1899 the Omaha Railroad lines surveyed for the railroad up to about four miles east of Jeffers and grading began immediately with horses and scrapers. The railroad was completed to Jeffers in the fall of 1899.

Jeffers was platted by the Inter-State Land Co. The land bought for the townsite was homesteaded by George Jeffers and the town adapted his name. It is now located in section 20, township 107 N., range 36 West, Cottonwood county. The original townsite included 20 blocks. The first addition took in blocks 21 to 30. In 1911 the County Auditors Sub-division No. 11 took in the balance of the 240 acres that now comprise Jeffers.

The articles of incorporation for Jeffers were filed in the county court house May 8, 1900. The first postoffice was established in 1900 in the Faust store and A. A. Faust was the first postmaster. A rural route was established in October 15, 1904 with Bert Crist as carrier.

The churches played an important part in our early history. The Methodist congregation was the first to organize under the leadership of Rev. Russel in 1900. They started their church that same year. Lutheran services were conducted by Rev. Kefler of Lamberton in 1900. The congregation was organized in 1902. Services were held in homes and in the lumber yard until a church could be built. The church was built in 1911. The Catholic congregation was organized in 1911 under the direction of Rev. Anthony Hennekes. Their church was built that same year.

School was held for the first time in April 1902. The building was ready for use in 1903. The highschool was added in 1920. Sidewalks were laid in 1911. The town was lighted by gas lanterns until 1920 when electricity was installed. The water system was put in in 1926. Dr. Theissen was the first resident doctor and Dr. M. O. Peterson was the first resident dentist. Frank and Carl Duroe established a private bank, known as the Bank of Jeffers, on December 12, 1899. On June 20, 1900, they received their charter and the bank then became the State Bank of Jeffers. The first permanent business building was built by Ed Anderson in the early fall of 1899 and was used for a harness shop. It has been used for a harness shop since and is now operated by G. Hiedeman.

Written by Mrs. Otto Roefer
August 13, 1949.

HISTORIC SITE

FIRST STORE 1871

D. C. DAVIS - W. M. JACKSON
LAKESIDE TOWNSHIP
1 BLOCK NORTH

Lakeside became a separate civil Township by an act of the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting in the month of August, 1870. In August, 1870, by order of the County Commissioners, thirteen eligible voters met at the home of J. W. Benjamin. Elected at this meeting were K. W. Sheldon, Simeon Greenfield and Frank Parso as Board of Supervisors. R. P. Mathews as Town Clerk, J. H. Ingalls as Treasurer, Tabor Imus and O. M. Banshan as Justices of the peace, Charles Imus and R. R. Place as Constables.

Previous to organization as a Township, many had filed on claims and were comfortably settled in dug-outs or claim shacks. The railroad had been finished as far as St. James, and all who settled West of there had to bring their lumber from there by use of horses or ox-carts. Many had to go to St. James for mail and provisions.

The first school house in the Township, a one-room school, was built in Bingham Lake. The Oak Grove School came next, then the Dyer School and District 66 was made from the East part of District No. 8 Memory recalls many of the wonderful teachers we had in the early days, who did so much to direct the young people and guide them in their struggle for an deucation.

In early days the Sunday School Union organized a Sunday School in Bingham Lake. Church services were held in the various school houses or the people worshipped in Mountain Lake or Windom until about 1900, when a church was built under the supervision of the Methodist Church. It is usally spoken of as a Union church and during all the years has been a church for all denominations and everyone is welcome. For many years the I. O. G. T. Lodge played an important part in the educational and social life of the young people. Many who are older now retain happy memories of the splendid meetings in the old Good Templars Hall.

Bingham Lake was platted in 1871 and was incorporated in 1900. The first business place was a general store owned by Daniel C. Davis and his uncle, Wm. Jackson. They bought their goods in New York in large quantities, but hard times, credit losses and the fact that they gave away so much to help the needy caused them to have to discontinue the store. Daniel C. Davis was appointed postmaster in 1872 and held the office until 1889.

Victoria Greenfield, who later became Mrs. B. W. Gove, who came to the township with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Greenfield when she was 3 months old, was the first woman in Lakeside to vote when women were granted suffrage. Lakeside was the scene of the first wedding in Cottonwood County when George B. Walker and Janette Greenfield were married at the Greenfield home on February 19, 1871. Rev. Peter Baker was the pastor.

There are still descendants of a few of the earliest settlers who point with pride to what their ancestors accomplished. Among those who retain an active interest are the W. C. Banks, Israel Burbanks, J. F. Grants, F. M. Dyers, Simeon Greenfields, the Pierces, Milo and John DeWolfe, D. P. Langland and other families.

Mrs. Pierce and T. H. Burbank are the oldest residents in Lakeside still living on their original places.

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